

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 22, 23, and 25-29 were pending in the application at the time of the last Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 7 and 8; and have not canceled or added any claims. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 22, 23, and 25-29 remain pending.

The Office Action rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for informalities; and claims 1, 2, 5, 7-11, 22, 23, and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0093371 ("Burrows") and U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2006/0053279 ("Couelgnoux").

Applicants have amended claim 7 and 8 and respectfully request reconsideration. Although applicants believe that there was sufficient antecedent basis for "the recipient," they nevertheless amend these claims to advance prosecution.

The Office Action beginning on paragraph 22, page 10, asserts that Burrows can be applied under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). The Office Action is incorrect. To be a valid reference under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a), the reference must be published before applicants' invention. (See, e.g., MPEP § 706.02(a)(II)(C), which makes clear that "[f]or 35 U.S.C. 102(a) to apply, the reference must have a publication date earlier in time than the effective filing date of the application." Emphases added.) Although applicants filed the Burrows reference on November 8, 2002, Burrows did not publish until May 13, 2004, which is after applicants' filing date of February 27, 2004. Because Burrows published after applicants' filing date, Burrows cannot be applied under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims.

Conclusion

Applicants do not concede any rejection not specifically responded to above and reserve their rights to do so in the future. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons the claims on which they depend are allowable.

Based on these amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests early allowance of this application. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (206) 359-6478.

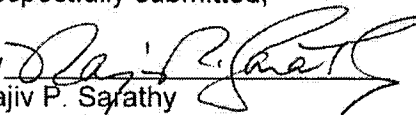
Please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 50-0665, under Order No. 418268004US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

Mar. 21, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

By


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